

REMARKS

Claims 19-27 are pending in this case and stand rejected. With this response, claim 19 has been amended. No new matter is added by virtue of these amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

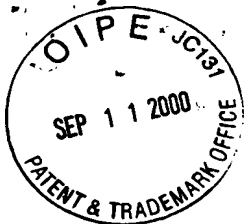
Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, Examiner states:

"...there is no provision clearly disclosing a frame of reference (distal-proximal) to compare displacement of the various elements in the claim. Due to the lack of clarity, the term 'sufficiently distal' is considered vague and indefinite." Office Action at p. 2.

With this response, claim 19 has been amended to replace the term "sufficiently distal" with a more definite statement which does not rely on a distal-proximal frame of reference. Therefore, applicants respectfully contend that claim 19, as amended, is definite and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-27 stand rejected only as being dependent upon rejected base claim 19. Accordingly, in light of the foregoing amendments to claim 19, claims 20-27 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe that all rejections of record have been obviated or overcome by the foregoing amendments and remarks and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections. If any action other than allowance is contemplated, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's representative, Thomas D. Kohler, at 650-849-7706.



Authorization to charge the required fee for a three month extension of time is attached. Should the Commissioner determine that additional fees are due in connection with this response, he is authorized to charge the required fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 11, 2000


Richard E. Ballard 46,078
(Reg. No.)

for: Thomas D. Kohler (Reg. No. 32,797)
PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP
1155 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2711
(650) 493-4935

Enclosure